

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11 Plaintiff, CASE NO. CR17-0216-JCC
12 v. ORDER

13 RICHARD BLICK,
14 Defendant.

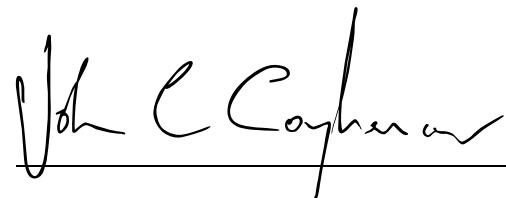
15 This matter comes before the Court on the Government's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 85) its
16 addendum to its sentencing memorandum (Dkt. Nos. 86, 86-1). The Court hereby GRANTS the
17 motion for the reasons explained herein.

18 The Court starts from the position that “[t]here is a strong presumption of public access to
19 [its] files.” W.D. Wash. Local Civ. R. 5(g). This presumption applies particularly to “dispositive
20 pleadings.” *Kamakana v. City and Cty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1179 (9th Cir. 2006). To
21 overcome this presumption, there must be a “compelling reason” for sealing that is “sufficient to
22 outweigh the public’s interest in disclosure.” *Id.* The Government seeks to maintain under seal
23 opening and closing Powerpoint presentations presented at trial, as they present sensitive
24 information regarding the minor victims in this case (Dkt. No. 85 at 1–2.) That information is
25 highly personal and the disclosure of which would be harmful to Mr. Blick’s victims. In contrast,
26 the public has no compelling interest in this information. Therefore, the Government has

1 demonstrated a compelling reason to seal the records that outweighs the public's interest in their
2 disclosure.

3 For the foregoing reasons, the Government's motion (Dkt. No. 85) is GRANTED. The
4 Clerk is DIRECTED to maintain Dkt. Nos. 86 and 86-1 under seal.

5 DATED this 24th day of July 2018.
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9 John C. Coughenour
10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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